

# Site Assessment Overview Calumet Container Site Hammond, Indiana



Presented by:  
U.S. EPA  
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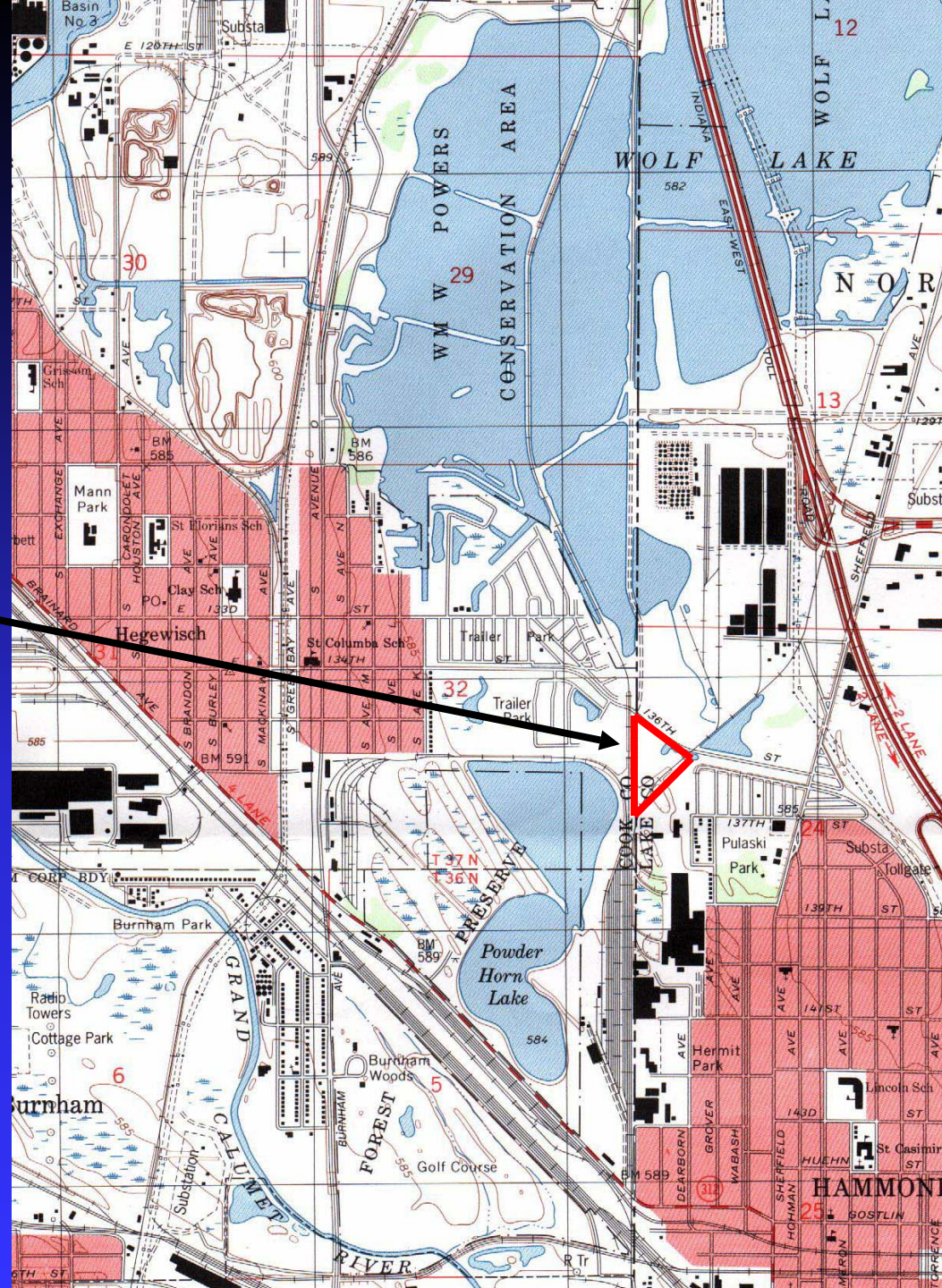


# Area Map

Site Location



Lake Calumet, IL &  
Whiting, IN Quadrangles





# Site Location Map



# *Site History*

- In the 1960's the Steel Container Corporation, a.k.a. Calumet Container Corp., began operations as a drum reconditioning facility.
- Calumet Container was cited for numerous violations regarding air and water contamination and material disposal.
- On April 16, 1982, the Indiana Attorney Generals Office filed an Enforcement Action against Calumet Container.
- On April 21, 1982, an explosion and fire consumed the main building at the site.

# *Site History*

- In May 1982, U.S. EPA initiated an Immediate Removal Action that resulted in the disposal of contaminated liquid and sludge.
- In 1984, U. S. EPA initiated a planned Removal Action that disposed of drummed liquid, solids, and sludges, contaminated soil, and tanker truck waste.
- In November 2001, IDEM collected soil samples that indicated high levels of lead, cadmium, and chromium.
- In February 2002, U.S. EPA initiated a Site Assessment to determine the nature and extent of contamination.

# *Site Assessment*

- Site Inspection
- Field Screening for VOCs and Radiation
- Drum Survey and Sampling
- XRF Metals Investigation
- Surface Soil Sampling

# *Site Assessment Results*

- Site access was unrestricted through a break in the fence and indications of trespassing were evident.
- Several drums, tanker trucks, discolored soils, stressed vegetation, and metal debris piles were observed.
- Soil samples indicated elevated levels of lead, chromium, and PCBs above EPA PRG and Indiana RISC levels.
- Drum samples indicated that a varnish-like substance was a characteristic hazardous waste based on flammability.
- Weather Conditions could cause contaminants to migrate

# *Extent of Contamination Study*

- GPS Survey
- XRF Metals Investigation
- Surface and Subsurface Soil Sampling
- Sediment Sampling
- Geotechnical Sampling
- Wetland Delineation



# *Extent of Contamination Results*

- Lead was detected above industrial land-use criteria (800 ppm) at 26 soil sample locations.
- BETX constituents were detected above criteria at 15 soil sample locations.
- Preliminary volume estimates indicate that over 10,000 cy of soil exceeds industrial criteria for lead and BETX.

